

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein.

The indication that claims 11-16 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks.

Claims 11-13 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, and have been amended as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 9-10 were rejected as anticipated by SGIAROVELLO et al. EP 1 046 469. Claim 9 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The reference does not disclose that one arm of the device carries, close to the attachment portion, a circular track segment for bearing against a portion of a spring turn and that is provided along its inside edge with a rim for retaining the turn. The reference discloses arms 13, 15 that have, at their distal ends, segments for engaging a spring turn. However, the segments at the distal ends are far from the actuator 9, thus rendering the device in the reference more unstable and more dangerous to use than that of the present invention where the circular track segment is carried close to the attachment portion. Accordingly, the reference does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 9 and claims 9-10 avoid the rejection under §102.

Claim 10 further avoids this rejection because the bisector plane of the encompassed portion of the spring is in the reference confused with the plane passing through the center of the spring and the center of the attachment zone. In other words, each jaw touches the spring at two points or zones that are located substantially in a same transverse plane passing by the center of the spring in order to have the symmetry of loading of the spring.

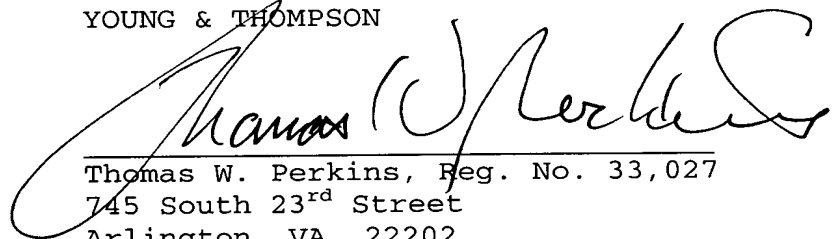
New claims 17-22 have been added and are believed to be allowable because the reference does not disclose that a curved track segment that bears against a portion of a spring turn crosses a line from a center line of the actuator to a center line of a spring held in the compressor and has distal ends on opposite sides of this line. This is illustrated, for example, in Figure 1 wherein the track segment 5 crosses the line P3. The reference discloses that the arcuate segment 13 is to one side of (does not cross) a corresponding line. Claim 18 is further allowable because the reference does not disclose that the rim also crosses this line. Claims 19 and 24 define a tab (similar to that of allowable claim 12) that is not disclosed in the reference and claim 20 defines the decreasing thickness of the segment (similar to allowable claim 13). Claims 21 and 22 define a fitting for removably attaching the track segment to the attachment portion that is not disclosed in the reference (this connection is also the subject of allowable claims 14-15).

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/mjr